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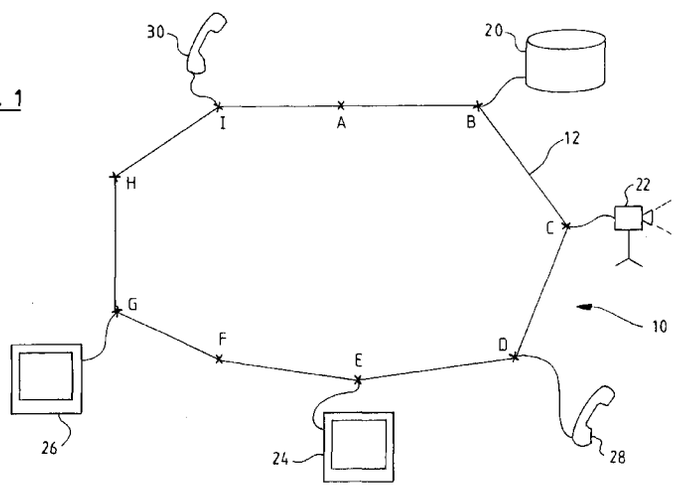
(54) Token ring network

(57) A token ring local area network includes workstations running both conventional data and multimedia applications. The latter, which generally require a minimum throughput in order to be viable, can be split into two further categories: those which cannot tolerate excessive latency (end to end delay), typically interactive applications such as voice communications, and those which are less sensitive to latency, typically playback operations. the network recognises three priority levels: (1) for latency-sensitive multimedia applications, (2) for latency-insensitive multimedia applications, and (3) conventional applications. All multimedia applications prior to commencement of any communications over the LAN must request an allocation of throughput from a LAN segment resource manager (LSRM), which will only be awarded if there is currently sufficient available throughput on the LAN to support the attended communication. Furthermore, first priority level applications are also given a maximum token holding time, thereby ensuring rapid circulation of the token, and controlling latency.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 0700

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
A	EP 0 089 159 A (BURROUGHS CORPORATION) * page 1, line 3 - line 12 * * page 3, line 8 - line 18 * * page 4, line 14 - page 5, line 24 * * page 6, line 20 - line 34 * * page 10, line 4 - page 11, line 8 * * page 19, line 11 - line 28 * * page 22, line 6 - page 23, line 4 * ---	1,4,5,8	H04L12/42
A	THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING SYSTEMS, 9 - 12 June 1992, YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, pages 468-475, XP000341044 GOPAL AGRAWAL, BAIO CHEN, WEI ZHAO, SADEGH DAVARI: "Guaranteeing Synchronous Message Deadlines with the Timed Token Protocol" * page 468, left-hand column, line 33 - page 469, left-hand column, line 19 * * page 470, right-hand column, line 29 - page 471, left-hand column, line 46 * ---	1,8	
A	IEEE INFOCOM '90, 3 June 1990 - 7 March 1990, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA, pages 969-981, XP000164312 ISRAEL CIDON, YORAM OFEK: "Metaring - A Full-duplex Ring with Fairness and Spatial Reuse" * page 975, right-hand column, line 1 - page 976, left-hand column, line 19 * -----	1,8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) H04L

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	10 March 1997	Vaskimo, K

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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